

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

Consideration of Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements

(National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit)

for the

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

NIMBUS SALMON AND STEELHEAD HATCHERY

AND AMERICAN RIVER TROUT HATCHERY

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

The State of California, Department of Fish and Game (DFG) operates the Nimbus Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery (NFH) and American River Trout Hatchery (ARTH) on land owned by DFG and the United States Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento County. The Hatchery is on the south bank of the American River immediately downstream from Lake Natoma and Nimbus dam. The NFH produces juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead to mitigate for the loss of anadromous fisheries resources due to the operation of Folsom and Nimbus dams. The ARTH obtains fish eggs or fingerling fish from other hatcheries, or collects fish eggs at remote sites. The eggs are incubated and hatched, and fish are reared to various sizes to accommodate various management strategies. Fish are transferred from the hatcheries to several California water bodies for release. Total yearly harvestable weights produced by the hatcheries are approximately 600,000 lbs of trout, 70,000 lbs of salmon, and 130,000 lbs of steelhead. The hatcheries receive water from Lake Natoma for use in hatchery operations, and the water is routed through settling ponds when the raceways are cleaned. Up to 90 million gallons per day (mgd) of flow-through process wastewater is subsequently discharged back to the American River via four Outfalls. This proposed Order retains technology based effluent limitations for total suspended solids and settleable solids, and includes new water quality based effluent limitations for copper and formaldehyde. This proposed Order requires the Discharger to conduct a study of mercury in the receiving water and effluent. Also, various aquaculture drugs and chemicals may be used periodically to ensure the health and productivity of the confined fish population. Since limited toxicity information is available regarding these drugs and chemicals, this proposed Order requires additional toxicity testing, and, based upon results of this testing, may be reopened to include water quality based effluent limitations for these drugs and chemicals if necessary.

A **formal** public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Regional Board meeting which is scheduled for:

DATE: 28 and 29 April 2005
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of Central Valley Regional Board
- Representatives of the California Department of Fish and Game

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. All other persons wishing to testify or provide comments are interested persons and not designated parties. Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Board no later than **1 April 2005**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than **1 April 2005**. Written evidence or comments submitted after **1 April 2005** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair.

Anyone having questions on this proposed renewed Waste Discharge Requirements Order should contact Jon Ericson at (916) 464-4660. Interested parties may download the proposed Order and related documents from the Regional Board's Internet website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/tentative/>. If you do not have Internet access, these documents may be inspected and copied at the Regional Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by appointment.

The procedures governing Regional Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Regional Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Regional Board's website at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/board_meetings/mtgprocd.html or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

KENNETH D. LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer